



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.3760 | FAX (517) 373.8661

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/cropsey/

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Contact: John Lazet
(517) 373-3760

Cropsey Calls on Federal Senate to Stop Obstructionism

Urges senators to follow bipartisanship of Michigan Legislature

LANSING – Senator Alan Cropsey, R-DeWitt, today issued comments on the Senate floor of the Michigan State Capitol urging the U.S. Senate to follow the lead of bipartisan cooperation demonstrated by the Michigan State Legislature, and end the politicization of the judiciary. The U.S. Senate is currently upholding the nomination process of Mr. Miguel Estrada, President George W. Bush’s nominee for a vacancy on the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

Cropsey spoke highly of the effective relationship which has already been established between the Democratic Governor and Republican Legislature. He provided sound examples of the ability of state government to work together by noting the advice and consent hearings in the Senate and the swift approval of Gov. Granholm’s Executive Order to balance the 2003 General Fund Budget. The Republican Legislature also has already approved ten appointments of Governor Granholm, and let another appointment take effect without a vote.

“We in the majority party have often disagreed with the philosophies of Gov. Granholm’s appointees, but we believe that the Governor has the right to make appointments of the people of her choosing,” Cropsey said. “If I, as chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, or as a member of the majority in the Senate, stood up and found a way to block Granholm’s appointment of judges, the media and the voters would rise up in indignation and even anger at our antics, and rightly so. The Judiciary should not be politicized.”

Cropsey called on Michigan's U.S. Senators to take action and work in a bipartisan fashion to end the filibuster against Mr. Estrada.

"I call on our two Michigan Senators to stop the partisanship, to stop their obstructionism, and to follow the U.S. Constitution by allowing a vote on Miguel Estrada," Cropsey said. "If they need to vote 'no', that is their business. But crippling the U.S. court system by playing petty politics is unbecoming to the office of a U.S. Senator. It is time to act responsibly, stop the filibuster, and put justice before politics."

Mr. Estrada was unanimously deemed "well qualified" by the American Bar Association, its highest rating. He also has the support of the Hispanic Bar Association, US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Latino Coalition and the League of United Latin American Citizens.